

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments, and reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.104 and § 1.112, and in light of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

Amendments

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to clarify that the protuberances are formed from the plate, not the body that the plate forms, and that the protuberances are formed by deformation of the plate as opposed to being merely made of the same material as the plate. No new matter is presented.

Interview and Prior Art Rejections

The courtesy of the telephonic interview with the Examiner and his Supervisor on 17 February 2004 is gratefully acknowledged, and forms the basis for these amendments.

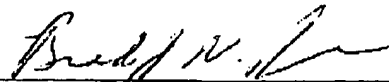
As discussed during the interview, and clarified by the present amendments: the plate is formed into a body used as an anastomosis member; and the protuberances are formed from the plate by deformation thereof as opposed to being merely made of the same material. As mentioned during the interview, the term "each protuberance" has been replaced by reference to the antecedent "plurality of protuberances" to assure that infringement is not avoided by merely adding a different protuberance to the present invention.

As discussed during the interview, Das shows a wire, not a plate. The loops in Das are made by shape the wire itself takes through 3D space and do not extend from the wire. Thus, as claimed, the protuberances and the plate are separate, whereas, assuming the loops of Das are protuberances, the protuberances and the wire in Das are the same. Skeie is used merely for the general method of using an anastomosis member, but provides no better

suggestion for the present structure than Das, and the structure of the member is recited in the present method claims.

In conclusion, the claims are now believed to be allowable, and advancement of this case to allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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